The Aduise

and answer of my Lord ỹ Prince of Orenge, Coũtie Nassau &c. and of ỹ States of Holland and Zeland, made by the Estates generall on thisside, vpon the Articles cõceiued and and after concluded and accorded in fourm of a pertuall Edict betwæn Lord Don Iohn Duke of Austrich, Knight of ỹ Order of the Golde Fleece of the part and in the name of the Catholick King of Spaine of the one partie, and the said generall Estates of the other.

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Translated out of Dutch into English.

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My Lord the Prince of Orēge and the states of Holland and Zeland, hauing seē ỹ credible letterꝛ sēt frō my Lords the generall states of the lowe countries, by my Lord of VVillerfall, and Maister Paule Buys Aduocate of Holland, In company of my Lord the Ambaſſadoꝛ from the Emperour, and thervnto bēing ernestly requested, to be brought ouer vnto the aforesaid Lord and Prince, and hauing vnderstood ther by that the aforsaid Lords and states desired to haue their aduice vppō any Article concluded on, by manner of an euerlasting Edict, in the name of the King, and confirmation of the peace, bēing betwēen the lands ouer and on this side, and Dō Iohn of Eastenrick. The which Articles hauing bēn wholy shewed vnto them, hauing aunswered, and do answer the same which hērafter followeth.

That is to say. At the sight of the aforsaid Articles, they cannot leaue but commend the ernest zele and great desire which ỹ aforsaid Lordꝛe states, do shewe to haue, in setting again our poꝛe distressed native Countrey, in his perfect quiet-

nes, and peace which hath long time bẽn wished and desired. And they vnderst and firmly, that the aforesaid Lord and states, haue had nõe other regard or meaning in the same, then that once they might deliuer these poor oppressed people from so many miseries and calamities, wherwith welnigh they alredy haue bẽn destroyed and ouerwhelmed, through the cruel and vnsufferable tiranny of the proud Spainish nation, and their vnlawful gouernment, by them brought in. And in ỹ time to come, good order and sure remedy as may be appointed, ỹ hẽr after wee fall not in the like daunger, with one firm and vnuiolable maintenance of the olde priuiledges, lawes and liberties of the lands, and that specially hath bẽn their purpose, with the aforesaid Artikles to defend, in all and ouer all, the last pacification made and concluded in the citie of Gaunt, the 8. of Nouember last past. Such as in all their letters, acts and protestations they haue alwaies promised and assured, the same beeing surely worthy of praise and commendations by all our posteritie. But notwithstanding, after that the aforesaid Lord and Prince and states of Holland & Zeland had per-

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ufed the aforesaid Articles from point to point, according to the present opportunitie of the cause, and necessitie of the sãe, ẏ which forceth thẽ to overlooke and way all the circumstances, like as in the time of our forefathers, the which in the like occasions, never have left to approve and obtain of their Princes, new and commendable Privileges, So then they have thought that with the aforesaid Articles, the good zeal and desire of the aforesaid Lord and States before mentioned; is not in all things, wholy and perfectly accomplished. For first it seemeth that the aforesaid olde privileges of the land, the which they by all kinde of waies desired to have established: certain byewayes are found, which tend greatly to the abridging of the same, so that the power and libertie of gathering the generall States togither in them to whom of olde time and right it did appertain; covertly taken away, as also that the States of the land are bound unto new bonds, and ordes hertofore never used. Besides the which men may evidently se, the manifest inviolating of the said privileges, in the unjust withholding of the Countie of Buren, who as all the world knoweth,

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uſed the aforeſaid Articles from point to point, according to the preſent opportunitie of the cauſe, and neceſſitie of the ſãe, ẏ which forceth thẽ to ouerlooke and way all the circumſtances, like as in the time of our forefathers, the which in the like occaſions, neuer haue left to approue and obtain of their Princes, new and commendable Priuileges, So then they haue thought that with the aforeſaid Articles, the good zeal and deſire of the aforeſaid Lord and ſtates before mentionned; is not in all things, wholy and perfectly accomplished. For firſt it ſeemeth that the aforeſaid olde priuileges of the land, the which they by all kinde of waies deſired to haue eſtabliſhed: certain byewayes are found, which tend greatly to the abridging of the ſame, ſo that the power and libertie of gathering the generall ſtates together in them to whom of olde time and right it did appertain; expertly is taken away, as alſo that the ſtates of the land are bound vnto new bonds, and ordes hertofore neuer vſed. Beſide the which men may euidently ſe, the manifeſt innouating of the ſaid priuileges, in the vniuſt withholding of the Comtie of Buren, who as all the world knoweth,

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was taken and caried away against all lawe, reaſō, and ẏ priuileges of the afore-ſaid lands, the which ought more to haue bēn conſidered of, in that at the begin-ning, the ſaid priuileges were ſo intrin-ged, and a matter which manifeſtly and ſpecially, ought to haue ſerued to the ere-cting and eſtabliſhing of the ſame, eſpec-ially in ſeing of one perticuler perſon the which in no one cauſe could haue offen-ded, which giueth small hope that the ſame harafter ſhalbe kept, vnto the whole people and Cities in generall. Againſt ẏ which there ſhall lack no mat-ter for to accuſe thē of crimes & rebellion. Adding therto, that in this dealing is handled manifeſtly, againſt the afore-ſaid pacificacie of Gaunt, and for that it is a-gainſt the ſame, it tendeth to ẏ ſubuerſion of the whole, wherto the afore-ſaid Articles ſeem to extend, the which more plainly appeareth, in that th'approbatiō and agre-ing of the ſame, in no part is ſo plain and ſimple, as the reaſon and waight of ſuch a cace wel requireth, but wholy re-pending on certain denialls, limited and ſubmitted to an vnnumerable of dere-ful delayes, & in all being like the ſame which in the time of madame of Parma

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which hath caused this great and terrible bloodshed, against the which also was re-
covered by the Deputie of the aforesaid Lord, Prince and States of Holland and zeland protestations and acts, belonging to the agreement, whereof in like effect penn by the consent of the States.

Moreover the aforsaid Lordes, Prince and States of Holland and zeland, do finde as they understand, some points bearing so much in some unto their native countrie, that they suppose the remembrance of the same for ever, as also unto their posteritie, should be imprinted an everlasting shame and stain unto them, in that that we not onely should have rewarded them their wages that ever charged, and unwarely used us: but also should treat in composition and agreement with those which were by open proclamation, and the authoritie of the King, and of the States have declared and particularly by an instruction before the States of the holy Empire, have caused to be accused for arrant Traitors & Rebels, the which had made any covenants or conspiracies with the Spaniards. And that which is more, we wittingly have consented and suffered them to carry out of our na-

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tine countrye all kinde of bag and bag-
gage, our Jewels, money, goods, merchan
dise, and affelments, without any gain-
saying. Moreouer the aforesaid Lords,
Prince and States of Holland and zeland
do think, y theirs is not sufficiently set and
neuer waied y respect, honour and thank-
fulnes that we owe to the right noble
and mooste mightie Quéene of England,
as also vnto my Lord the Duke, and bro-
ther to the King of Fraunce, the which
haue shewed their redines w their whole
good wil in helping vs with their goods, in
pulling vs out from the oppressions and
slauery, wherin we stood our selues as the
agreéued. Therefore reason woulde
haue required, that they should haue bén
therin comprehended with plain and ho-
norable speéches. And lastly we do not
finde in the aforesaid Articles, that the
inhabitants of Holland & zeland, were
prouided for with any assurance, alth-
ough in the last handling of the peace at
Breda, many necessary and reasonable assu
rances were presented, & as should haue
bén also don the last time when they
handled of the peace at Grunt. Also be
that their deputeds, so wel with their
mouthes as with their writings, do de-
clare, that they in no manner of wayes,

vnderstood to handle with any other then with the states themselues: they would haue shewed, how they on their side, walked in good treuth, protesting if their meaning had bin to haue receiued Don John, & ỹ they must haue tractated with him in that sorte as they now do: they would haue required other assurances, such as reason & the occasion of the cause should haue required. And in these Artícles is not onely one assuräce, but also no mention made of the particulers, by substituting them wholy in to their owne agein, touching their goods, states, and gouernements, the which they haue in diuers places ouer on this side, as also in the countrie of Bourgoingen, the which neuertheles following the fact of the pacificatie, the which at that same time was not handled there vp the generall States of the landes ouer on this side, and ouer these with expresse words might not be specified, according to all reason ought wel to haue bin pounded for, and that is more they can pretende none assurance in the aforesaid Artícles. Also for the other prouinces, and all the poore common people ouer on this side, seeing that neither of the razing of holdes or Castels (out of ỹ which

as it is wel knowē vnto euery one, much euil is chaunced) as is not once touched or expressed, neither also pronounced any perticulers, nor declarings of the obliuionsnes therin once mencioned, the which vnto the common people cannot be otherwise but suspition, the which openly, and now in the last departure vnto this present hath beene threatned, bebowning therfore truly good assurance for the time to come when as the lād shalbe vnweaponed, and Don Iohn established in the authoritie, and government if it were but the view of the examples of the times past. But it seemeth to the cōtrary that the states shalbe ioyned with such gouernours, as shalbe to their contentation for this time, as if they ment heerafter to take frō thē al meānes wherby they might holde them selues assured against the euil intent of such as they appointe to be their gouernours.

To make short, there were many other such Articles, which after they thought of the aforesaid Lord Prince and states of Holland and zeland ought wel to haue been ouerseen and marked, it was therfore their purpose, to put in writing all the same, and to send it ouer to the aforesaid

said Lord and states, and onely to declare vnto them that it was now the time, following the footsteps of our progenitors, to request, folowe and obtain the increasing and multiplying of the priuileges, lawes and liberties, left vnto vs by them. And specially hauing thereunto so good an occasion and opportunitie, that we fall not again in to the like calamitie. But when as they were busie in drawing the aforesaid, pointes and articles and to put them in writing, to the end as before, there is come to their hands the copie of the missiue which the aforsaid Lord and states, had written vnto ỹ aforesaid Don Iohn, out of ỹ which they haue vnderstood, ỹ the forsaid Lord and states, haue promised, without any tarying for answere vpon the said Articles, to conclude with the said Don Iohn, and to require him to subscribe the same Articles, with promise to cause them to be published, and to receiue him in to the countrey whereof the aforesaid Lord, Prince and states of Holād and zelād haue wondred much, seeing such a chaunge, perceiuing ỹ the date of the aforesaid missiue writtē was of ỹ lāt time (so as they shortly after came vnto their hands) that the aforsaid Lord of

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VVilleruall, was come vnto them, for a-
bone the contrarieties which they found
in this dealing, they also thought that the
hastines of a cause of so great a cõsequẽce
whereon the whole welfare, or destruction
of al these lowe countries doth hang: was
much abridged, though notwithstanding,
forasmuch as they holde and firmly be-
leeue the same to be chaunced, to deliuer
their native countries the sooner from the
Spaniards, and other strange oppressors,
so thẽ they can do noneother but wish (as
they do from the bottome of their harts,
and pray vnto the Lord God) that the e-
uent and end may be such as all those
which are true louers of their native
countries do desire. And somuch as apper-
taineth vnto them, forasmuch as it were
now in vain to vse many reasõs to ỹ con-
trary, or to debate or gainsay a cause or
matter beeing done. They do promise
and assure the aforesaid Lords and states,
that they will maintain ỹ peace of Gaunt
by all manner of wayes, hoping that the
meaning of the said Lord and states is
sure also, beseeching them, that they in all
mishaps will shewe them selues in their
deedes to be such, as they on their side at all
times are ready to do. Neuertheles, that

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men may plainly ſée with their déeds, that they deſire nought els. but to fur-ther the departure of the Spaniards, and other ſtraungers, and confirm the peace and quietnes, with their olde priuileges, lawes and liberties of the lands, they are contented to commend and ſubſcribe vn-to the aforeſaid Articles confirmably and with condition, that the ſaid Lords and ſtates, firſt and before all others it may pleaſe them, firmly and vnchaungeably to conclude, and to deliuer to them ſu-fficient and fourmable acts and obligato-rie, ſubſcribed by the Lords, ſtates, and gouernours, heds and coloneles of the prouinces, that it ſoõe that the Spani-ards, according to the order taken and ap-pointed with Don Iohn, be not departed out of the lands ouer on this ſide, in déed and trueth, and that in ſuch time as to them is appointed. For to beware once of ſuch lingring and delayes, the which con-tinually vnto this time, haue bẽn ſo hurtful vnto vs, the foreſaid Lords & ſtates ſhall break and cut of all former communica-tion with them, and purſu them with we-pon in their former departure, without a-ny more hereafter to ſt and or deale with them by way of communication, howſoe-

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uer the same might bée, and allso that it may please them again , to deliuer acts and bõds, that after the aforesaid departure, neither they nor the aforsaid gouernours, heads and collonels, shall receiue, suffer or acknowledge ẏ said Dõ Iohn, nor any other for gouernour of ẏ land, before ẏ he shal haue erected and wholy satisfied again, in all points which striue any wayes or are cõtrary to the aforesaid priuileges, lawes and liberties of the land, or any wayes preiudice vnto the pacificacie of Gaunt, folowing all this and that euery one shalbe set and appointed in their goods again, aswel in Burgõyen as ouer on this side ẽ that all the aforsaid priuileges, ẽ liberties, shalbe confirmed, ratified ẽ establi shed, following the same: with the aforesaid L. ẽ estates, in the time of the handling of the peace at Gaunt: solẽnly did promise by their writings, to their Deputeds from the Date of the 24. of October. 1576.

Doon at Middelborough the 19. of February. 1577.

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